

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND CONSERVATION**

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HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601**DECISION MEMO  
ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE**

Corvallis County Sewer District Wastewater Preliminary Engineering Report

October 25, 2021

Corvallis County Sewer District

PER – Administrative Action

46.313019, -114.113640

Ravalli County

**PURPOSE AND NEED**

The Corvallis treatment facility discharges to groundwater and District members are concerned for the quality of the groundwater because they, and many other residences and businesses in the area, rely on the same aquifer for drinking water through individual wells. In addition, construction of new homes in the area would have the potential for adding new septic systems if they cannot be connected to the WWTF. Septic systems do not provide the same level of treatment as the WWTF.

The aging equipment, unreliable disinfection, and difficulties for maintenance are combining to threaten the capability of the facility to continuously provide adequate treatment. Reliable treatment and disinfection that are manageable safely for the operators are needed to continually protect the quality of the local aquifer now and into the future.

The proposed planning project aims to protect Montana's groundwater and surface water by planning for a new disinfection system, expanded capabilities of aeration and new screening to remove and properly dispose of solid waste prior to treatment.

Additionally, the project means to protect wildlife and aquatic resources using down gradient wetlands and surface water bodies partially recharged by groundwater discharges. The proposed project will protect groundwater wells that use the aquifer for safe drinking water, stock water and irrigation water.

The PER update is scheduled for completion during Summer 2022.

**Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action:**  
DNRC approved the grant to provide funding for the Corvallis County Sewer District.

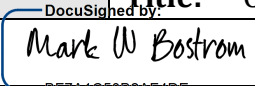
DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

### **ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523)**

- ✓ Administrative actions: routine, clerical or similar functions of a department, including but not limited to administrative procurement, contracts for consulting services, and personnel actions.
- ☐ Minor repairs, operations, or maintenance of existing equipment or facilities.
- ☐ Investigation and enforcement: data collection, inspection of facilities or enforcement of environmental standards.
- ☐ Ministerial actions: actions in which the agency exercises no discretion, but rather acts upon a given state of facts in a prescribed manner.
- ☐ Actions that are primarily social or economic in nature and that do not otherwise affect the human environment.

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances.

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<b>Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Mark Bostrom <b>Title:</b> CARD Division Administrator	
<b>Signature:</b>	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> 	<b>Date:</b> 11/15/2021   9:49:38 AM MST

